



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20160423-00118-ADV (Health Advisory)

**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, IPs, Hospitals, and ERs – Statewide

**DATE:** Saturday, April 23, 2016

**SUBJECT:** *Measles Update: Outbreak in Memphis, TN Area*

Dear Colleagues,

The Tennessee Department of Health and the Shelby County Health Department are reporting two confirmed and three probable cases of measles in the Memphis, TN area. Molecular testing indicates the two confirmed cases are linked but the source has yet to be identified. Investigations to identify additional cases and a potential epidemiological link are ongoing.

**Physicians in Mississippi should consider the possibility of measles when evaluating susceptible patients with an acute febrile rash illness, especially if the individual has been in Shelby County within the past three weeks. Suspect patients should be immediately placed in airborne isolation and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) should be contacted.**

**Clinical Presentation**

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness spread person to person through airborne respiratory droplets. Measles is characterized by prodromal fever (as high as 105°F) and the three C's (cough, coryza and conjunctivitis), often with Koplik spots (white spots on an erythematous base on the buccal mucosa). On about the 3rd to 7th day of the illness (usually about 14 days after a person is exposed) patients develop a maculopapular rash spreading from the head to the trunk and lower extremities, becoming generalized over a 3 day period. Individuals are considered contagious from 4 days before to 4 days after the onset of rash. The incubation period ranges from 7 to 21 days.

**Laboratory Diagnosis:** MSDH can provide guidance on the diagnosis and laboratory testing for measles suspects. The most commonly available methods for confirming measles infection are measles specific IgM antibody and measles RNA detection by real-time PCR (RT-PCR).

## Reporting

Measles is a Class 1 reportable condition in Mississippi requiring immediate reporting to MSDH within 24 hours at first knowledge or suspicion. To report a suspected or confirmed case, call 601-576-7725 during regular business hours or 601-576-7400 during nights, weekends or holidays.

Sincerely,

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist  
Mississippi State Department of Health

## *Alerting Message Specification Settings*

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	Mississippi State Department of Health
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	MSHAN-201604230-00118-ADV
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Health Advisory
<b>Status (Type):</b>	Actual ()
<b>Message Type:</b>	Alert
<b>Reference:</b>	MSHAN-00118
<b>Severity:</b>	Unknown
<b>Acknowledgement:</b>	No
<b>Sensitive:</b>	Not Sensitive
<b>Message Expiration:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Urgency:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Delivery Time:</b>	600 minutes

## *Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings*

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT ( <b>ALT=Health Alert</b> , <b>ADV=Health Advisory</b> , <b>UPD=Health Update</b> , <b>MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service</b> )).
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
<b>Health Alert:</b>	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
<b>Health Advisory:</b>	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
<b>Health Update:</b>	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Health Info Service:</b>	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Status (Type):</b>	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
<b>Message Type:</b>	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).